

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
CHARLESTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CRIMINAL NO.: 2:18-cr-1017

vs.

**WENDELL WILKINS**  
**JALISA THOMPSON**  
**TIFFANY REED**  
**BRANDON THOMPSON**  
**LABEN MCCOY**

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18 U.S.C. §1349  
18 U.S.C. §1343  
18 U.S.C. § 1951  
18 U.S.C. § 1956(h)  
18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C)  
18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1)  
28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)

**UNDER SEAL**  
**INDICTMENT**

**COUNT 1**

(Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud)

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

1. From in or about February 2016 through at least January 2018, in the District of South Carolina and elsewhere, the Defendants, **WENDELL WILKINS, JALISA THOMPSON, TIFFANY REED**, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, knowingly and willfully and with intent to defraud, combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed together to execute and attempt to execute a scheme and artifice to defraud by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the scheme transmitted and caused to be transmitted by means of wire communications in interstate commerce, writings, signs, and signals in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1349.

MANNER AND MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY

At all times relevant to the conspiracy:

2. **WENDELL WILKINS** was a prisoner at the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC).
3. **JALISA THOMPSON** lived in Spartanburg, S.C., and she communicated with **WILKINS** regularly during the conspiracy while he was incarcerated.
4. **TIFFANY REED** lived in Charlotte, N.C., and she communicated with **WILKINS** regularly during the conspiracy while he was incarcerated.
5. **WILKINS**, and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, smuggled smartphones into the SCDC in violation of state law. These smartphones contained features such as personal computers, telephones, digital cameras and videos, and Wi-Fi Internet Access.
6. Using the Internet access on the smartphones, **WILKINS** and other inmates at SCDC orchestrated a scheme to defraud members of the United States Military by means of wire communications in interstate commerce.
7. It was part of the scheme that **WILKINS**, using a smartphone, joined Internet dating websites and posed as a young woman who was seeking a romantic relationship. On the dating websites, **WILKINS** targeted young men who were in the military.
8. After meeting military members on the dating websites, **WILKINS** texted nude pictures of young women that he obtained from the Internet. It was part of the scheme that **WILKINS** claimed these nude pictures were of the woman that he

was impersonating on the dating website. After **WILKINS** texted nude pictures, he asked the military members to text nude pictures and other personal information in return.

9. It was further part of the scheme that after exchanging nude pictures and other personal information, **WILKINS** called the military members and claimed to be the young woman's father. **WILKINS** told the military members that his "daughter" was a minor and not 18 or 19-years-old as listed on the dating website. **WILKINS** then threatened to notify the military authorities that the military member was exchanging nude pictures with a minor unless the military member paid money. **WILKINS** claimed that the money was needed for counseling and medical bills for the trauma that his "underage daughter" suffered from the sexually explicit text messages. In some instances, other inmates at SCDC who conspired with **WILKINS** called the military members posing as a police officer and threatened them with arrest unless they paid additional money.
10. **WILKINS** directed the military members to wire money by means of wire communications in interstate commerce via Western Union, MoneyGram, PayPal, and Walmart to individuals in South Carolina and North Carolina.
11. It was further part of the scheme that **WILKINS** recruited **JALISA THOMPSON**, **TIFFANY REED**, and others to retrieve the money that was wired by the military members. **WILKINS** instructed the military members to wire the money to **JALISA THOMPSON**, **TIFFANY REED** and others in

South Carolina. **THOMPSON**, in turn, recruited other persons to help her retrieve the wired money.

12. After retrieving the wired money, **THOMPSON, REED**, and others bought pre-paid debit cards at **WILKINS'** direction and provided him the debit card numbers so he could access the money in prison via a smartphone. **THOMPSON, REED**, and others took a portion of the wired money for their role in the conspiracy.

13. Due to this conspiracy to commit wire fraud, **WILKINS** fraudulently obtained at least \$80,000 from service members who lived in states across the country.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1349.

**COUNT 2**  
(Extortion)

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

In or about June 2016, in the District of South Carolina and elsewhere, the Defendant, **WENDELL WILKINS**, did obstruct, delay, and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce by extortion, as those terms are defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, in that **WILKINS** obtained the money of E.R.K., with his consent, induced by the wrongful use of actual and threatened force, violence, and fear, including fear of economic loss and employment termination, as described in Count 1.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951.

**COUNT 3**  
(Money Laundering)

**THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:**

From in or about February 2016 through at least January 2018, in the District of South Carolina and elsewhere, the Defendants, **WENDELL WILKINS, JALISA THOMPSON, TIFFANY REED, BRANDON THOMPSON, and LABEN MCCOY**, knowingly and willfully combined, conspired, and agreed with each other and with others, both known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to conduct and attempt to conduct financial transactions affecting interstate and foreign commerce, which involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is, the wire fraud described in Count 1, knowing that the property involved in the financial transactions represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, and further knowing that the transactions were designed, in whole and in part, to conceal and disguise the nature, the location, the source, the ownership, and the control of the property, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i);

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

**FORFEITURE**

**CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT WIRE FRAUD/EXTORTION:**

Upon conviction for violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1349 and 1951, as charged in this Indictment, the Defendants, **WENDELL WILKINS, JALISA THOMPSON** and **TIFFANY REED**, shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from any proceeds the Defendants obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of such violation, and any property traceable to such property.

**MONEY LAUNDERING:**

Upon conviction for violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956 as charged in this Indictment, the Defendants, **WENDELL WILKINS, JALISA THOMPSON, TIFFANY REED, BRANDON THOMPSON**, and **LABEN MCCOY**, shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956, as charged in the Indictment, or any property traceable to the offense.

**PROPERTY:**

Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C) and 982(a)(1), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), the property which is subject to forfeiture upon conviction of the Defendants for offenses charged in this Indictment includes, but is not limited to the following:

FORFEITURE JUDGMENT/ PROCEEDS:

A sum of money equal to all proceeds the Defendants obtained directly or indirectly as the result of the offenses charged in the Indictment and all interest and proceeds traceable thereto.

FORFEITURE JUDGMENT/MONEY LAUNDERING:

A sum of money equal to all property involved in the money laundering offenses charged in the Indictment, and all interest and proceeds traceable thereto.

SUBSTITUTE ASSETS:

If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the

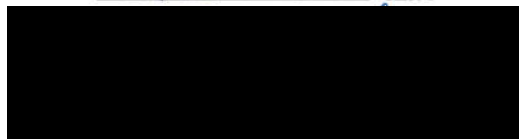
Defendants:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States of America, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p) as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982 (b)(1), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the said Defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C) and 982(a)(1), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

A TRVE BILL



Sherrri A. Lydon  
SHERRI A. LYDON (MRD)  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

RECORD OF GRAND JURY BALLOT

C/ 2:18-1017

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v. **WENDELL BERNARD WILKINS, ET AL.**

(SEALED UNTIL FURTHER ORDER OF THE COURT)